

Those who cannot
remember the past are
condemned to relive it.
George Santayana

January 1999
Issue 8

For Army Newspapers

SPORTS



(Top) Fort Rucker's **ARMY FLIER** and (below) Fort Stewart's **FRONTLINE**



Post-30-

Command Information & Products Division,
Office, Chief of Public Affairs, Department of the Army

Sports and Army Newspapers

Army newspaper readers have been and continue to be hooked on sports. Surveys as far back as 35 years show sports tops among stories favored by the enlisted. In a 1975 survey, for example, soldiers grades E1 through E4 ranked sports first and higher enlisted ranked sports second to other news stories such as Personal Affairs and Army Policy . (*Officers were not asked to participate in the survey.*)

It's truly an unusual event or happening that will attract great numbers of people and entice them to travel, in some instances, long distances. And, invariably, these same fans will pick up the next edition of the newspaper to read details and accounts of action just seen.

But, not everyone has the chance to take in a sports event. The closest many will come to the center of action is on sports pages of their post newspaper, provided of course, the paper covers sports.

(cont. page 4)

N E W S is spelled out—top to bottom—in Morse Code. When the telegraph was developed in the mid-1880s, it signaled the beginning of a new era of journalism: the age of electronic news reporting.



Impressions/Expressions

By Sgt. Maj. Gary G. Beylickjian (USA-Ret)

FEEDBACK ON NEWSPAPER HISTORY SERIES

I was surprised by the number of people in and out of the Army who expressed interest in the Role of the Army Newspaper mini-series. My intent was to give today's Army journalist a glancing look at the evolution of Army journalism—but from a limited focal point—its role.

Several readers were especially interested in the section dealing with the Alternative Press and Army newspapers. I should note that a handful of the Alternative Press lasted until 1975, the year the Vietnam War ended. I had no evidence if any remained after that year.

The Alternative Press as we knew them during the 1960s-1970s should not be compared to certain publications of today. The Alternatives—or as we sometimes referred to them: The Press By Default or the Under Grounds—were anti-war publications. And later became anti-Army, anti-government.

Someone asked whether Army newspapers were ever censored. There are strict regulations regarding information during any war. Army newspapers had to follow those regulations and certain information—unit strengths, itineraries, troop movements, weaponry and the like—were off limits.

One e-mailer asked about bylines in World War II and Korea. Bylines were used in some stateside and overseas Army newspapers. Use of bylines depended on the unit newspaper's policy. One interesting point may be made here. When most bylines were used during World War I and World War II, they were minus civilian titles or military ranks. Bylines with ranks began appearing in Army newspapers at the time of the Korean War.

Cont. on page 3



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ARMY NEWSPAPER WORKSHOP

The Army Newspaper Workshop will take place May 9-14 in Alexandria, VA. Details regarding the final schedule will be announced on PALINK.

If the proposed schedule is an indication of what's to take place, this workshop should be one of the great ones. Gary Sheftick and Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Robinson, both at OCPA, DA, are the contacts if you need more info. Call DSN 225-3952.

THE DEMISE OF ARMY NEWSPAPERS?

Want the spotlight to shine on you? All you have to do is stand on a soap box and spew out predictions, something negative about the future. In Army journalism, a prediction that'll definitely draw attention is to proclaim that Army newspapers are doomed or near dying. I heard this in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s and Army pubs are still around. Not as many, to be sure, but enough to do the job.

Those who make such forecasts are wishful thinkers, self-servers of sorts who have or had a stake in radio, television or the Internet. I was told years ago that Armed Forces radio would slowly put overseas Army papers out of business. Then, it was television and now it's the Internet.

I can visualize soldiers logging on to the Internet while lounging in dayrooms, barracks, at home or places most are compelled to attend to contemplate, anticipate and sometimes exaggerate.

When they want to read, the material is often at hand, printed on a desk, on shelves or in the mail box. Printed matter is always available, finicky electronics notwithstanding. Perhaps, the number of Army newspapers will become smaller as the number of posts and personnel decrease. This is a fact of life when an Army is fulfilling peacetime needs. A much better alternative than facing bullets.

The internet obviously has its place. No one can question its role in the information highway. But, as many have found the internet has a number of extended pit stops and pot holes along its speedways. The internet will become a necessary appendage in our daily lives, no question there.

But, so long as there are soldiers and government civilians who need and often thirst for information, education, enlightenment and entertainment ASAP. There will always be a need a newspaper. I doubt there'll be a soldier or civilian who'll take the time, have the incentive to carry a laptop, boot up, connect, log on, surf and print what's needed to fulfill his or her informational needs. Not now at least!

COMMENTS ON PAST OUTSTANDING ARMY JOURNALISTS

I expected feedback after I printed the short list of what I considered the top Army journalists from 1966 to 1977. A list of about 400 names from those years says quite a bit. One of many names I left off the list is Edward Sears, of Fort Gordon's RAMBLER now SIGNAL. Lieutenant Sears later became the managing editor of the ATLANTA CONSTITUTION. Ray Gneiwek, Fort Lee TRAVELLER, whom I did list, is senior editor of USA TODAY; he's on the foreign desk. Sears was a KLW judge back in the 1970s, and Gneiwek and I met again after almost 25 years during last year's KLW judging. Both men produced great Army newspapers.

The Army always has and continues to produce many outstanding and accomplished journalists.

SPORTS AND ARMY NEWSPAPERS



(Cont. from page 1)

Some Army newspapers don't cover sports, and that's unfortunate. Sports fans comprise an important and impressive segment of a unit newspaper's readership.

Every section of an Army newspaper is important. Each has its share of readers. There is one section, however, that has more than its share of followers: the sports section.

Many readers often turn first to the sports section which generally takes up one or two pages near the back of the paper. Some newspapers offer as many as four. If sports pages are colorful and interesting, chances are the reader likely will scan the remainder of the newspaper. Sports pages are an effective reader magnet.

Sports news also stimulates interest in athletics, which form an important part of the recreation program at most Army posts. Also, the spotlight on local contests gives men and women an incentive to participate, thereby promoting fitness and good health.

SPORTS PEGS

The Army's athletic programs are highly organized, consisting of thousands of competitors. Many units have various sports programs, some worthy of coverage and publication.

Annual tournaments offer excellent opportunities for widespread coverage in post and unit newspapers. The finals invariably offer material, for example, for sports articles, and features of general interest.

Athletes who place in the top levels in command-wide swimming, track, boxing, relays, chess, wrestling and so on make great material not only for general interest but also for sidebar matter. Personality sketches are ideal for individual accomplishments. Many post papers have covered these well.

A soldier-athlete who breaks or establishes a sports record is worthy of a story. A significant record breaker calls for a bigger treatment.

Several past Army newspapers have had unofficial contacts with local national sports teams and were able to run features on major league players in post publications. The Fort Devens DISPATCH, for example, set up such a contact with the Boston Red Sox. The Fifth Army RANGER featured Chicago Bears players in the publication. Back during the 1960s, a visit to George Halas, the Bears owner/coach, became an annual event and a photo op. Because of the rapport between the post and the professional players, some pro players volunteered for on-post sports workshops and other sports programs. This added to the importance of on-post sports. More recently the Fort Campbell COURIER staff ran an excellent story Sept. 17 on the Tennessee Oilers.

And, don't forget the women in sports. Many are now into professional events. and the women athletes on post deserve the same coverage as men athletes.

(cont. page 5)



(Top to bottom) Fort Hood's ARMORED SENTINEL, USARJ's TORRI and Hawaii's HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

The sportswriter has more leeway in writing his stories than a reporter writing a straight news story. The sportswriter deals with events centering on action and thus has more chance to use action verbs. Sportswriting offers a challenge to imagination and creativity.

Sports writing falls into the same basic pattern found in news presentation—the all-purpose inverted pyramid, which calls for the essential facts coming first. Varying sentence and paragraph lengths are important. And clichés, prevalent in sports, should be kept to a “bare minimum.”

One recommendation is to learn as much as possible about the past athletes. Check out their sports backgrounds, ambitions, records and Abilities. These can make for useful sidebar material.

When a **roundup** is needed, gather the game records and begin the lead focusing in on the most important game or the most outstanding personal performance. Once the lead is written, supported with one or two additional paragraphs, a rundown of scores should be followed by more details of that important game or sports figure.

For the straight sports story, the pattern used for news stories is useful. The lead answers the WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY and HOW questions. The body should follow the news story pattern, written in a thoughtful and orderly style, amplifying the facts in the lead and using action words.

Sports stories often deal with more names than in a standard news story. Rosters, units, positions, names of officials and records can be overwhelming, but once a routine is established, names and stats should be no problem. For a novice sportswriter, a little practice will pay off. Don't allow a feature to become a dry delivery of facts. Bear in mind, most sports involve conflict, try to describe the action with the most effective words and phrases possible. Use the vernacular of the game.

A word of caution: Don't allow personal loyalty to the home team to prevent you from writing an unbiased story. Keep opinions out of sports stories (unless identified as commentary). If you think the umpire's decision was bad, you could mention it in your column, ensuring comments are supported by facts. It's best, however, to quote others on such matters and stay neutral.

Locker room sports talk may be clear to the athlete, the rabid sports fan and the sportswriter, but may sound like code to others. Because newspaper readers come from a variety of groups, you may find it advisable to use a few words of explanation about sports jargon.

Strive to write your stories so they'll appeal to the greatest number of readers.

(cont. page 6)



(Top) Fort Belvoir
CASTLE (below) Fort
Campbell **COURIER**



Laying Out Sports Pages

Athletics is a vigorous and fast-moving, and sports should reflect these through bold, vigorous and dynamic layouts found in the examples shown accompanying this article.

Use large illustrations and headlines—in relation to page size.

Avoid overcrowded layouts. A helter-skelter, circus-like page layout can turn readers off. A clean and simple design is the best approach.

Use vertical photo crops which connote action; horizontal crops denote tranquillity.

Set scoreboards in a box or screen, which will inject typographic “color.”

Set them near the center or bottom of the page.

Use a chimney or panel for roundups, sidebars, stats. Panels are best set on the left of the page.



(Left) **APG NEWS**, Aberdeen Proving Ground, (center) **NORTHWEST GUARDIAN**, Fort Lewis, (right) **MDW's PENTAGRAM**

Some Notable Writers of Sports

Spc. Tom Findtner (NORTHWEST GUARDIAN)
Walt Johnson (MOUNTAINEER)
Sgt. Tim Volkert (HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY)
Tim Hipps (EAGLE)
Julia Simpkins (TORII)
Patti Bielling, Mary Bodine, Spc. Mindy Anderson (COURIER)
Spc. R. A. Keith, Spc. Nicole Kasem (FRONTLINE)
Staff Sgt. Betty Thompson (ESSAYONS)
Brian Gleason, Angela S. Tatum (ARMY FLIER)
Tommy Graham (Fort Riley POST)
MSgt. Bob Haskell (ON GUARD)
Staff Sgt. Doug Sample (LEADER)



(Top) Fort Sill's **CANNONEER** and White Sand's **MISSILE RANGER**. (Left) Sports clippings from Army newspapers.

Sports in Army Newspapers

By Tim Hipps (Sports Editor, The Fort Belvoir EAGLE)

Sports coverage belongs in military newspapers just as much if not more than in America's mainstream publications.

After all, the military encourages athletic participation and physical fitness far more than most segments of society.

Base -and post-level teams may not be as skilled as their collegiate and professional counterparts, but their efforts and accomplishments on the playing fields mean just as much to them, their units and leaders as do the travails of the Fighting Irish to the students, alumni and fans of Notre Dame University or the Redskins to the people of Washington, D.C.

Many soldiers' athletic dreams were quashed when they failed to earn a college scholarship. Many get rekindled on forts like Benning, Belvoir and Bragg. Some actually play their way back into the world of higher-earning athletics. Meanwhile, they all battle for local bragging rights of their respective posts and military regions.

Commanders actually have been known to censor sports coverage when their unit failed to bring the trophy home. Thus, you can't convince us that nobody cares. Sports is about much more than just fun and games.

The Commander's Cup Trophy, which goes to the unit or organization team that compiles the most points annually in Fort Belvoir's Intramural Athletics program, is cherished throughout the U.S. Army post. The Belvoir EAGLE keeps readers abreast of the schedule of events, the outcome of various competitions, and provides the latest tally of where everyone stands throughout the fiscal year.

Publicizing these events not only rewards outstanding athletes and coaches, it also keeps co-workers, family and friends aware of what's happening in the intramural and post-level programs.

By publishing schedules, the newspaper keeps busy soldiers headed at the right time and direction for their next scheduled game, which often changes because of the 24-7 nature of military life.

At this year's Turkey Bowl football game, Walter Reed Army Medical Center coach Richard Tatum said the Eagle "saved us" because a few of his players didn't know the game had been rescheduled from Dec. 5 to Nov. 25.

"Thank God they read the paper last night," Tatum said. "Or they wouldn't have known we played today."

Susan Christian-Payne, Fort Belvoir's 1998 Female Athlete of the Year, rallied the troops of the U.S. Army Systems Performance Office to its inaugural Commander's Cup.

"In our unit, especially, it brings a lot of esprit de corps," Christian-Payne said of Belvoir's intramural athletics program. "A lot of people at first say: 'Oh, no, I'm not interested in it.' And then if they see our unit win something, especially if they see it in the EAGLE, they'll say: 'Wow, I didn't realize.' And then we start getting fans out there.

"Toward the end of the year when we were in competition for the Commander's Cup, and you were posting all the points standings in the paper and people saw we were in first place, it got a lot easier to get people to participate. I had like 27 people sign up to swim, and 25 showed up.

/more/

"So toward the end, it was really great. The whole command was excited about it. I had people asking me: 'OK, where are we at now? I know soccer's finished. Have you added the points? Are we still in first place?'"

"It was like that every day. And toward the end, we started getting more and more people out there just watching, if nothing else. We had wives and husbands come out to watch. It was really exciting."

Christian-Payne organized a year-end sports barbecue in honor of all USASPO's intramural participants. She was floored when more than 100 people attended.

Matthew Goldthwaite, Fort Belvoir's 1998 Male Athlete of the Year, said he will miss the athletic opportunities the Army provided.

"I really enjoyed the physical fitness and sports programs," said Goldthwaite, who in September ended his eight-year Army career. "In civilian jobs, you just don't have that. I'm really going to miss that. Sports brings people together who normally wouldn't even come together."

"From all different walks of life, they come together on the field as members of the same team and work together to achieve the same goal. We can really learn a lot from playing sports. It teaches kids the importance of hard work and going for your dreams. I could talk all day."

Ditto from this corner, but we think you get the drift. Hopefully, your military newspaper will cover sports as well as the EAGLE does!

Trust us, your readers will appreciate the effort.

Motion in Makeup

Enticing most readers to pick up the post or unit newspaper has not always been easy. Getting them to scan through the pages has often been harder still. Layouts often lack direction or movement. Typographical elements go on pages with little thought. The idea is to find a news hole and fill it.

What's needed is something akin to a roadmap on a newspaper page. With the use of typographical guideposts, an editor can help the reader travel along the editorial freeway with little or no hassle.

This can be done by logically and properly arranging headlines, illustrations and other graphic elements on the page. Failure to orderly and systematically place elements on the page can contribute to the circus-like layouts, lacking appeal and interest.

As the reader scans the page, attention is drawn to large, bold elements. He or she is drawn to color and screens, ruled text, and if all are correctly and properly placed on the layout, the reader can move hassle free into, across, down and out of the page. (cont. page 10)

Slipshod, circus layouts—seen in a good number of Army pubs—can be hazardous to good reading. Readers are likely to abandon their reading trip. A layout that lacks visual direction, lacks appeal, and a lack of appeal invariably lacks readership. Newspaper reading should have a high comfort level.

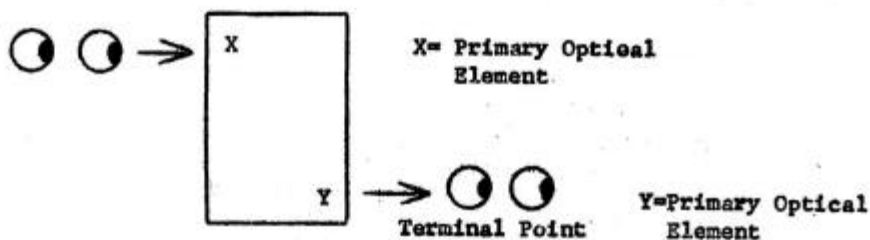
With the help of a few simple illustrations we can show how typographical arrangement can affect directional eye-flow and help readers attain a comfort level. Most of what's noted applies mostly to full- or standard-size newspaper. Tabloids also can benefit from these pointers.

First, a some basics:

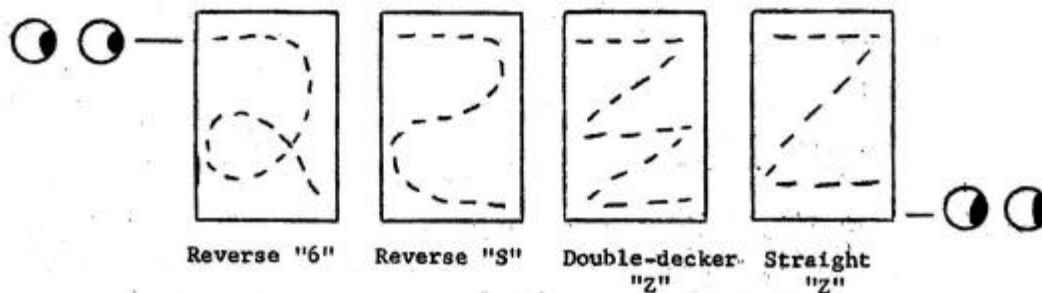
OPTICAL ELEMENTS

Primary (Strong) Optical Elements	As opposed to	Secondary (Weak) Optical Elements
Large elements		Small elements
Rectangles		Squares
Circular shaded elements		Rectangles
Shaded (screened) elements		Outlined (unshaded) elements
Black		Gray
Upper left		Upper right
Above the fold (full-size newspapers)		Below the fold (full-size newspapers)
Vertical shapes (for illustrations)		Horizontal shapes (for illustrations)
Asymmetrical shapes		Symmetrical shapes

ENTERING AND EXITING THE PAGE

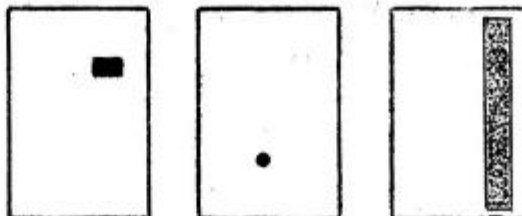


EYE-MOVEMENT PATTERNS

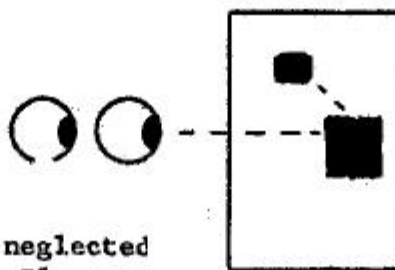


POINTS TO CONSIDER

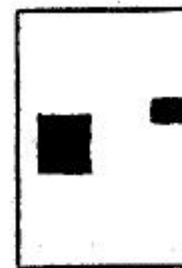
A single item on a page--regardless of its shape, size, tone or placement--draws attention to itself.



Large elements tend to attract the eye before small elements. Small elements are often neglected if preceding larger ones. Place elements in logical sequence: from left to right, as in B.

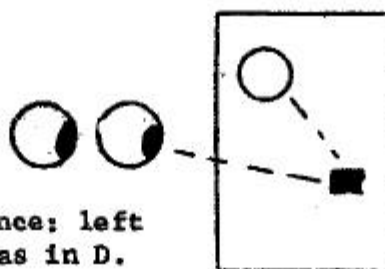


A

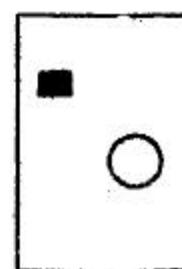


B

Despite the size of the circle, the eye is captured by the dark block in C. Put elements in logical sequence: left to right, top to bottom, as in D.

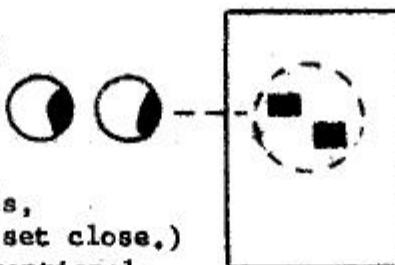


C



D

Elements of similar size, shape and tone--when set in a cluster--tend to be viewed as a single unit, as in E. (Examples: tombstone heads, unrelated illustrations set close.) Avoid clusters unless intentional.

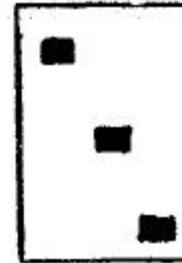
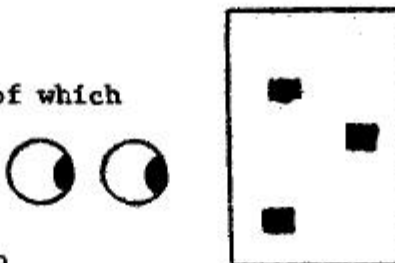


E



F

Avoid layouts--elements of which run counter to natural reading and viewing habits--that is, those which do not logically run left to right, top to bottom.



From Pages of Papers from the Past

MDW POST (MDW) "Is There Racial Discrimination in MDW?"—1971
 MERCURY (Fort Houston) "Poisons, Children Do Not Mix"—1977
 JAYHAWK (Germany) "An Alcoholic—Immoral, Sick"—1974
 CASTLE (Fort Belvoir) "RAPE: Is It Time For A Change In Attitude?"--1972
 SENTINEL (Fort Hood) "NCO Development"—1972
 PATRIOT (Fort Houston) "DWI Can Get You Dead"—1972
 SOUNDOFF (Fort Meade) "If The Shoe Fits"—1972
 REAL McCOY (Camp McCoy) "God Squad"—1971
 NEWS (Fort McClellan) "Being Black In America Is A Full-Time Job"—1971
 HALLMARK (ASA) "Turning Off A Turned-On Country."—1971
 FRANKFURT CHRONICLE (Germany) "Millions Are Drowning
 In A Sea Of Alcohol"—1976

Writer's Notebook

A native of Connecticut is known as a "Nutmegger"; one from Massachusetts is a "Bay Stater"; and one from Maine is a "Downeaster."

Each takes a singular verb. To write "Each of the soldiers are here" is incorrect. "Each of the soldiers is here" is correct. Consensus of opinion is redundant. Consensus is all that's needed.

A person administers something to someone. The person receiving whatever you are giving is ministered to. Evacuate out is redundant. Make it evacuate. A brief biographical sketch is also redundant. A sketch is brief.

It's not dismayed at the loss, but dismayed at the loss. More redundant phrases found in Army newspapers during September and October:

Divide up	true fact	widow woman	cold ice
Grow big	remove away	unknown stranger	old adage
Swell up	seldom ever	retreat back	level off

Saying Goodbye

Fort Knox Storytellers Going Elsewhere

By John Rickey (Public Affairs Officer, Fort Knox)

*(This commentary appeared in the Aug. 20 issue of **INSIDE THE TURRET**, and it displays that much-needed trust in, support of and affection for the staff of the post's newspaper.)*

Nothing is harder in life than saying goodbye to people you care about, particularly when you're sending them off to do "real world" public affairs missions with the dangers that are associated with American soldiers in hostile lands. And in spite of the fact that I feel younger than I have in years, the fact remains that I've got those old "empty nest" feelings returning as I watch my soldiers go away.

You know most of them. You've seen their faces on Channel 12, on the commentary pages that dot our newspaper, or from covering your kid's soccer or football game. They're easily identifiable; they're the ones with the long black "camera nose" stuck on the fronts of their faces as they patrol the sidelines at McAdams Field, or lugging those "cable snakes" while they record the sergeant major of the Army as he talks with troops in training.

It's not a hard job, but there aren't many of them. That's the reason why they're going to Bosnia, Korea and Alaska. The Army's losing its green-suited storytellers. Day after day more and more stories develop with fewer and fewer soldier story tellers to tell America what its money's buying. And just like a turret mechanic, not everyone can be a TURRET reporter. It takes some skill, desire, ability, and quality to do it. That makes me feel they're important.

Often I hear someone talking bad about my "kids" in the office using a throw-off phrase like, "How do I get an easy job like that?" I respond with a short and to-the-point retort like, "By being on duty all weekend, every weekend," or asking them when was the last time they sweated out a project deadline at two in the morning when a story just had to come together.

Are we talking nuclear disarmament or world peace? Surely not. If they didn't get the story done, would the world have stopped spinning or would someone have died? Absolutely not. But you couldn't tell it by the looks on their faces when their great story didn't make it into a position of prominence in the newspaper. There is nothing more competitive than competing for the lead story. Sometimes they made me feel like they failed me, and sometimes they made themselves feel like they failed you. I can't think of a better compliment to how they feel about you or the effort they put into their work.

As a fan of the History Channel, I love to watch the old programs about the ancient storytellers. Most of our history has been recorded by the soldier-storytellers who witnessed the events as they unfolded on the battlefields. Without them there to etch, draw, write, and record, life as we know it would be pretty one-sided.

Now I have several storytellers who have served you well going off to distant lands to write about other soldiers and their families. I even have one going off to write about foreign families and the Americans protecting their home. Makes me feel real proud of them--not for what they've accomplished, but for what they will and who they've become. It's been a good group of young men and women-storytellers all.

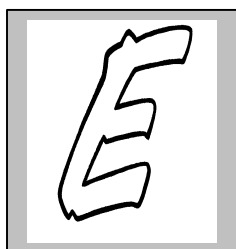
Cont. page 15)

I can only hope that they realize they made a difference in your lives. I know they made a difference in mine. So if you happen to see Staff Sgt. Eric Lobsinger with a reporter's notebook in his hand, tell him so long and learn to write with his mittens on while he enjoys Alaska. If you happen to see Sgt. Jim Secriskey with a videocam attached to his head, don't be alarmed, it's his weapon of choice--tell him to get off some good shots in Korea.

And don't forget Sgt. Lisa Waiblinger, our sports editor. She learned what a football looks like while she was here, and I predict nothing but spirals in her future when she joins Jim in the Land of the Morning Calm.

The good news is that while we're losing one of our ace reporters, Spc. Herschel Grangent, to the Bosnia mission, it will only be for six months worth of experience any public affairs officer hopes he's able to give his or her soldiers. I can't think of a better opportunity for a natural-born storyteller.

Soldier-storytellers some of the Army's finest, and I'm glad we've had them here to tell your stories to the American public.



Excellence --

*For Creative Contributions to
Army Journalism and Support of
Army Command Information*

** Denotes exceptional verbal and visual presentation.*

*TRAVELLER (Fort Lee) for "Stop, Look And Listen To Prevent Suicide," by Sgt. Adrienne Fredenberg, pub Nov. 25

ON GUARD (MSgt. John Malthaner, ed) for an excellent November issue.

*SOUNDOFF (Fort Meade) for the story and layout in "Over The River And Through The Woods," story by K.L. Vantran and illustrations by Glenn Foden, pub Dec. 17.

THE CITIZEN (Germany) for the opinion piece, "'Tis The Holiday Spirit, Not Spending," by Carey Bryant, pub Dec. 7.

NORTHWEST GUARDIAN (Fort Lewis) for the page-one story, "Team Spirit, Good Attitude help Soldiers in 'Tent City,'" by Staff Sgt. Todd Oliver, pub Dec. 11.

SOUTHERN STAR WEEKLY (Korea) for "Men In Black," by David K. Dismukes, pub Dec 4.

FRONTLINE (Fort Stewart) for "Native Americans' Contributions, Achievements Recognized," story and photos by Pvt. Christopher Smith, pub Nov. 25.

BLUE DEVIL II (Fort Snelling) for "A Casualty Of War," by Spc. Nicole Nelson, pub in the fall issue.

ESSAYONS (Fort Leonard Wood) for "Facing The 'Challenge'," story and photos by Pfc. Kim Brown, pub Nov. 19 and also for the layout in "Deadliest Weapon," story by TRADOC News Service.

(cont. page 16)

SOUNDOFF (Fort Meade) for Creative Concoctions,” by Joe Burlas, pub Dec. 10.
 PENTAGRAM (MDW) for “Army Beats Navy” stories by Nicholas A. Minecci and James Darcy pub Dec.11.
 BLIZZARD (Fort Drum) for “Best Of The Best,” by Pvt. Doug Tilson, pub Nov. 19.
 ESSAYONS (Fort Leonard Wood) for “Moonbase Essayons,” by Larry Allen, pub July 23.
 PENTAGRAM (MDW) for “Soldiers Of Blue, Gray Army Honored At Gettysburg,” by Kim Holien, pub Nov. 27.
 EAGLE (Fort Belvoir) for “Seeing Is Believing —Laser Surgery Opens Allen’s Eyes,” by Susan Allen, pub Dec. 10.
 MOUNTAINEER (Fort Carson) for the photos and layout in “Course Shows Soldiers’ Value Of Teamwork,” by Spc. Bryan Beach, pub Nov. 13.
 MISSILE RANGER (White Sands Missile Range) for “Getting Hooked: Program Uses Fishing To Teach Drug Prevention,” by Sandra Flores, pub Nov. 25.
 ESSAYONS (Fort Leonard Wood) for the story, layout and photos in “RELIEF For The Masses: Post Red Crosser Travels To Puerto Rico To Aid In Disaster Relief Efforts,” by Jason Baldwin, pub Nov. 25 Also in same issue “Relief For Central America’s Victims,” stories released through ARNEWS.
 ENGINEER UPDATE (US Army Corps of Engineers) for “MIA—Corps Archeologist Unearths Pilot Shot Down In 1967,” by Roderic McLean, pub July.
 BELVOIR CASTLE (Fort Belvoir) for the commentary, “National Family Recognition Week Brings Thoughts On Value Of Families,” by Staff Sgt. Wayne V. Hall, pub Nov. 25.
 SOUNDOFF (Fort Meade) for the story, the layout and photos in “The Few, The Proud, The Underage,” story by Joe Burlas, photos by Stephanie Boyar, pub Nov. 25.
 THE CITIZEN (Germany) for “Auf Widersehen,” by Jill Mueller, pub July 6.
 TRAINING TIMES (Germany) for “The ‘Men In Black’ Make Training In Hohenfels As Realistic As Possible” by Rachel H. Granger, pub May 19.

A Military Journalist’s Resolution for 1999

(The following was produced by John Benusiewicz, DINFOS’, Editor’s Course Coordinator)

- ✓ Given a choice between running a poor photo and running no photo, I’ll run no photo.
- ✓ Whether it’s a Page One story about a tornado tearing up Main Street or a brief item about a car wash, no news story will run in my paper without a concise, solid lead that promotes the most important W or H in the first few words.
- ✓ I’ll put more effort into my headlines so they’re communicative and properly sized, resisting the temptation to manipulate the type size or tracking to make my first impulse fit.
- ✓ Now that they’ve mastered relating what the “big wheels” have to say, I’ll make sure my writers also provide the perspective of the people who perform where the rubber meets the road.

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- ✓ If the story is about an agency that provides a service, it won't run in my paper unless it includes comments from customers.
- ✓ After I've spent a Saturday at the exchange and commissary seeing how many retirees pick up my paper, I'll make a better effort to keep them in mind in my editorial decisions.
- ✓ I will keep a bookmark in my AP Stylebook and read a few pages every day. This won't cause me to memorize the book, but it will give me a better sense of when I need to look something up.
- ✓ I will reach for the stylebook if I have even a flicker of a doubt about whether I'm using a punctuation mark correctly.
- ✓ My writers won't even make a phone call concerning a story I've assigned them to write until they understand what the story needs to be about, to whom it's important and why, and what I want our readers to get from it.
- ✓ By incorporating more drop headlines, pulled quotes, summary boxes and information graphics, I'll make sure the important messages in my paper reach even the "grazers" who browse through the paper without reading much of it.
- ✓ My staff and I will read "The Word" by Rene J. Cappon and "The Elements of Style" by Strunk and White every three months to keep our writing and editing sharp.
- ✓ I'll remind myself every day that "my" paper isn't really my paper - it belongs to my leaders and my readers. I'm here to make it happen for them.
- ✓ I'll spend less time this year fiddling with different headline fonts and byline styles, and will apply that time toward improving my paper's content.
- ✓ No holiday or annual observance will take me by surprise as that issue's deadline approaches.
- ✓ Starting with the first issue of the year, I'll maintain folders with our best effort in each contest category and strive to replace the contents of as many of those folders as possible with each subsequent issue.
- ✓ I'll write a few paragraphs and squirrel away my best photos every week so I can have a spectacular "Year in Review" special issue when December 1999 rolls around. I may even lay out a page or two for each month as the year goes along.
- ✓ I'll make a conscious effort to make the job fun for me and those around me.